

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04318 031116Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NO

SUBJECT: SEPT 9-15 NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TOUR: BACKGROUND

INFO FOR BRIEFINGS

REF: (A) OSLO 3497 (DTG 190719Z JUL 76), (B) OSLO 4029 (DTG 191055Z
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1. PROGRAM FOR RECENT POST-SPONSORED PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS HAVE
BEEN CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT, AND WE HOPE THAT BRIEFINGS WILL
AGAIN BE GEARED TO SENIOR VIP LEVEL IN VIEW PARTICULARLY OUT-
STANDING CALIBER THIS GROUP WHICH WILL INCLUDE A FORMER AND
POSSIBLY FUTURE PRIME MINISTER.

2. BRIEFING OFFICERS MAY FIND FOLLOWING GUIDANCE USEFUL IN
PREPARATION OF PRESENTATIONS FOR NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS
DURING VISIT ACTION ADDRESSEES SEPT 9-15 ON POST-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 04318 031116Z

SPONSORED NATO TOUR.

3. IN ADDITION TO THOROUGH COVERAGE OF ISSUES NORMALLY INCLUDED IN HIGH LEVEL BRIEFINGS (MBFR, CSCE, NATO STANDARDIZATION, SOVIET THREAT, US DEFENSE POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH ALLIES, ETC.), WE URGE YOU CONSIDER FOLLOWING ISSUES, WHICH OFTEN NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD OR APPRECIATED IN NORWAY:

A. IMPORTANCE OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK: WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO BROADEN NORWAY'S OFTEN RESTRICTIVE VIEW OF NATO BY EMPHASIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK AND ITS INTERDEPENDENCE WITH NORTHERN FLANK. IN THIS REGARD, WE THINK IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

(1) SPAIN. NORWEGIANS ACROSS ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE LONG REACTED WITH EMOTION TO SUBJECT OF SPAIN. WITH FRANCO'S DEATH, THE PRIMARY SYMBOL OF NORWEGIAN OPPOSITION TO SPAIN IS GONE AND NORWAY IS TAKING MORE OPEN (THOUGH STILL VERY CAUTIOUS) VIEW OF SPAIN. WE BELIEVE THIS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE TIME EMPHASIZE TO POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING THOSE ON NATO TOUR, THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND NORTHERN FLANK. SPECIFIC POINTS COULD COVER:

(A) BACKGROUND ON STRATEGIC/MILITARY CONTRIBUTION OF US FACILITIES IN SPAIN POINTING OUT INTERDEPENDENCE OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANK SECURITY AND REVIEWING CURRENT STATUS OF US/SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION.

(B) IF APPROPRIATE, SOME LOW KEY COMMENTARY ON US VIEWS ON EVOLVING SITUATION IN SPAIN.

B. GREECE AND TURKEY: FIRST EVER VISIT OF A GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER TO NORWAY WITH ACCOMPANYING PUBLICITY WILL HAVE JUST CONCLUDED PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARIANS DEPARTURE. REVIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION ON SOUTHERN FLANK AND US MILITARY PRESENCE IMPORTANCE TO NATO COULD THEREFORE BE USEFULLY INCLUDED.

C. IMPROVED POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS: POSSIBLE THAT TWO PARLIAMENTARIANS, BERGE AND WOLD, NOT FULLY AWARE EXTENT OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN NATO. NORWEGIANS ARE USUALLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED BY AMOUNT OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN NATO FORUM. THEY FIND CONSULTATIONS ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IN VIEW OF THEIR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN COMMON MARKET. EMPHASIS ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WILL HELP STRENGTHEN THEIR BELIEF IN IMPORTANCE NORWAY'S CONTINUED NATO MEMBERSHIP.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 OSLO 04318 031116Z

4. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE SHORT PRESENTATION ON AWACS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, INASMUCH AS PARLIAMENT MUST ENDORSE AND FUND ANY MOD DECISION TO PARTICIPATE. PRESENTATION SHOULD EMPHASIZE STRATEGIC NEED FOR AND ROLE OF AWACS FOR ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE AS WELL AS FOR LAND AND SEA ADVANCE WARNING AND COMMAND AND CONTROL ON NORTHERN FLANK.

5. EMBASSY OSLO FULLY COGNIZANT OF AND GRATEFUL FOR PAINSTAKING

PREPARATION THAT HAS MADE THESE VISITS SO SUCCESSFUL IN ENHANCING
NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNDERSTANDING OF NATO AND ROLE OF US
FORCES IN EUROPE.
ANDERS

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